

Good afternoon, this is Steve Mares, principal of Athens Drive Magnet High School with announcements for the upcoming week. A copy of these announcements will be posted on our school website (<https://www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs>), emailed and texted to our school families, and linked to the PTSA Athens Alert newsletter (<https://athensdriveptsa.com>).

As you may be aware, there is a chance for some wintery weather this weekend and into Monday morning. **I want to be sure that everybody understands that even if there is a delayed opening to school (a One-Hour, Two-Hour, or Three-Hour Delay), we WILL still be giving our Final Exams that are schedule for Monday, January 14th.** So, all students who have a Final Exam on Monday should prepare to take their Final Exam on Monday. If (and please understand that I am not saying this will happen!!) the Wake County Public School System closes school on Monday, we will then have the End-Of-Course (EOC) Tests and North Carolina Final Exams (NCFE) that are scheduled to be given on Monday, given on Tuesday. Please also know that I will communicate with students and families to ensure we all understand any changes to our Final Exam Schedule if we have a school closing.

Please know that our Final Exams for the First Semester will begin on Monday, January 14th. The Fall Semester Final Exam schedule is posted on our website (<https://bit.ly/2L2TEgq>). Please remember that there is still time for our students to study for their Final Exams. Students were provided with a schedule that they personalized to know exactly when and where they need to be in order to take their Final Exams. Our Final Exams will begin on Monday, January 14th with the administration of the English II EOC Test, the Math I EOC Test, and the English III NCFE. On Tuesday, January 15th, we will administer the Biology EOC Test and the Math III EOC Test. If your student is not taking one of these EOC or NCFE Exams, he/she does not need to come to school those days. Beginning on Wednesday, January 16th, we will have First and Second Period NCFEs, CTE Post-Assessments, and Teacher-Made Exams. On Thursday, January 17th, we will have Third and Fourth Period NCFEs, CTE Post-Assessments, and Teacher-Made Exams. Then, on Friday, January 19th, we will have Make-Up Exams for any students who may have missed a scheduled Exam earlier in the testing schedule. Please remember that EOCs, NCFEs, and CTE Post-Assessments are State-mandated Exams and all students must take these Exams. There are no Senior Exam Exemptions for those Exams. Final Exams count 20% of a students' final grade. Please also remember that if a student does not have a Final Exam scheduled for that day, he/she does not need to be on campus. Thank you for your attention to our Final Exam Schedule.

Please also remember that students are not allowed to check out before the end of any Testing session. Each year it seems that students will communicate with parents to come and pick them up because they are done with their Final Exam. However, no student can be released from their Testing Room until the Final Exam Period is over. Please prearrange to meet with your student after the Final Exam Period is over if a student is leaving campus. On the Athens Drive website (<https://bit.ly/2Fm0MEz>) we have posted the Permission form for students to be released after their Exam Period.

What a great week for the Arts at The Drive this week! After postponements due to the inclement weather in December, we were able to finally hold our Winter Chorus and Orchestra concerts this week. What a tremendous display of talent our students demonstrated! In addition, we found out that 13 of our Band members won positions in the Central District Honor Band, which includes a huge area of our state from Greensboro through the entire Raleigh-Durham area! In addition to this outstanding accomplishment, what is most impressive is how high our students scored—7 are All-State eligible and 10 won a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Chair in the entire District! I am so incredibly proud of the hard work our students put into fostering their talents!

We started our ticket sales this week for our first annual Athens Drive Winter Charity Gala to be held on Saturday, January 26th at Chatham Station in downtown Cary. Our goal this year was to raise \$6,000.00 for the St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Between ticket sales and on-line donations, we are still shy of our goal. However, a HUGE thank you goes out to all those generous students and parents that have supported us so far in raising close to \$4,600.00. Please help us to meet, and possibly surpass, our goal. All proceeds from ticket sales and on-line donations go directly to St. Jude's to help support those kids and their families in their fight against cancer. Tickets will be sold again next Wednesday and Thursday, January 16th and 17th, during our Final Exam week, during lunch. Please remember that the Rules of Conduct form can be found on our school website (<https://bit.ly/2RqWfGL>) and needs to be signed and submitted with the purchase of a ticket in order to attend

the dance. Please encourage your students to help us meet our goal, to help make a memorable night for our students, and to help fight cancer. If you have any questions regarding this event, please see Ms. Worrell (kworrell@wcpss.net) or Ms. Pipal (lpipal@wcpss.net). We are looking forward to a wonderful evening!

The Senior Breakfast is an annual tradition at Athens Drive that helps kick-off our Seniors' final Semester of High School. This year we will be holding our Senior Breakfast on Thursday, January 24th. In addition to breakfast, each student's name will be included in the raffle for a chance to win one of the many door prizes that are donated. This special and memorable event is entirely funded by donations from parents/guardians and local businesses. **In order to make this happen, we need monetary donations to purchase food items for the breakfast.** If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation or learn more, please visit the Senior Breakfast page on the Athens Drive PTSA website (<https://athensdriveptsa.com/class-news/senior-page/senior-breakfast/>). Please know that you can donate online by using the secure PayPal, donate gift cards or unwanted NEW gifts, or send in cash or check written out to the ADMHS PTSA (with a note in the memo for "Senior Breakfast") to help cover the expenses for the breakfast. Please place your donation in an envelope marked "PTSA: Senior Breakfast" and bring in to the Front Office. If you have any questions or want to know how you can help, please email seniors@athensdriveptsa.com with any questions. Thank you for your support of this enjoyable recognition for our Seniors!

Schedule Change forms for the Spring Semester are now available in the Student Services office and on our website (<https://bit.ly/2FvnM3v>). Only Schedule Change requests completed on the Schedule Change form will be reviewed (no email or phone request will be accepted). All completed Schedule Change forms must be submitted to the Student Services office by Friday, February 1st, by 2:30 p.m.

Please remember that Student Services will not be able to sign Driver's Eligibility forms until all grades and report cards are finalized. Thus, Driver's Eligibility forms will not be signed from now through Friday, February 1st to ensure that all grades are stored/finalized for us to verify that students meet the educational requirements for DMV. Student Services will resume signing Driver's Eligibility forms again on Monday, February 4th.

We are planning a 40th Anniversary Celebration at Athens Drive this Spring. As we celebrate 40 years of excellence at The Drive, we would like to offer all alumni, and families associated with Athens Drive, who are interested in being a part of our Celebration to please email Ms. Tonya Hinton (tchinton@wcpss.net). We would love for alumni, and/or families of alumni, to share photos, stories, and ideas for this upcoming special celebration! More details to come on this exciting event!

Please know that we continue to have representatives from universities meeting with our students during the school day. University representatives are located in the area outside of the Attendance office during both lunch periods. This is a great opportunity for our students to learn about the various programs that are available, admission requirements, and financial aid. For more information on the colleges that are visiting, you can contact Ms. Carrillo in Student Services (919-233-4050 ext. 24893) or visit the Student Services website (<http://adhs-student-services.weebly.com>).

This afternoon and tonight, we are playing four games at Cary High School, so come out to enjoy a great night of basketball. While we will not have any athletic competitions during our Final Exams, please be sure to continue to check the Athens Drive Athletics website (www.wakecountyathletics.com/athensdrivehs) for all our game dates and times. Thank you for supporting our incredible student athletes!

Those are all the announcements for this week. Please continue to check the Athens Drive website (www.wcpss.net/athensdrivehs) for general information to help you stay informed. I hope you all have a safe, warm, dry, and enjoyable weekend. Go JAGS and please take care.